

International

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 6

June 2007



Contents

1 Message from the Mayor

Message from the Council Member

2 Highlights of Upcoming Events

3 Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council

Global Bridge — Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce

4 Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

5 Connections Across the Globe:

Houston Airport System

Port of Houston Authority

Sister Cities of Houston

6 Promoting Houston Globally:

Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau

Opportunities and Resources

7-8 Upcoming Event Calendar (detailed)

Message from the Mayor

Houston is fortunate to be a diverse city, home to many individuals who have a passion for building closer ties among the many international communities that make our city unique.

The Executive Board of the Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council (MIADC), is one such group of individuals. Among the Board members are community leaders who are actively promoting the continued growth of Houston as an international city par excellence.

Last year, the seven regional MIADCs united to form the Executive Board, an umbrella organization, which coordinates the activities of all seven regions. I am pleased to note that, at their most recent meeting, the Board elected new leadership, and renewed its commitment to fulfilling the MIADC's mission. My congratulations to the new Chair of the Board, Mr. Glen Gondo, and to the new Vice Chair, Dr. Lennard Tenende, and to all members of the Board for their dedicated service to Houston.

Bill White, Mayor



Bill White

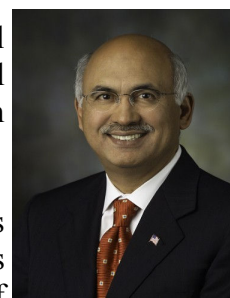
Message from the Chairman, International Liaison and Protocol Committee (ILPC), City Council

By working with national and international organizations and governmental bodies, our local government can play an indispensable role in improving the quality of life of our citizens.

Recently, I had the opportunity to join leaders representing various ethnic and religious communities in a meeting with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, in Washington D.C., to exchange insights about issues facing our communities today. The meeting was a great example of how local, national, and international communities can work together to better address common challenges.

In April 2007, I was invited to the capital to attend a special naturalization ceremony for new American citizens. At the ceremony, I, along with several other individuals, received the "Americans by Choice Award." To receive this award was a great honor, and serving my country and my city in any capacity is my passion.

M. J. Khan, Council Member



M.J. Khan

Highlights of Upcoming Events

Houston Technology Center Champions

June 1—Join other business leaders at the Houston Technology Center for a breakfast presentation by client companies, which will discuss innovative technological developments. Updates on the rapid growth of technology in Houston will also be presented. Please call (713) 658-1750.

Opportunity Urbanism at GHP

June 5—Join Joel Kotkin, one of America's foremost urban historians, who will discuss his research on urban trends, and introduce "Opportunity Cities," the predominant model for America's urban future, at a GHP sponsored luncheon, at the Doubletree Hotel. Please contact kculwell@houston.org.

Rice Alliance Life Science Tech. Forum

June 6—Join life science entrepreneurs, venture capital investors and the world's premiere scientific, biotech and healthcare companies at one of the largest life science venture forums in North America, hosted by Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship. Please call (713) 348-3443.

Conference of NAFTA Area Chambers

June 7—Join the Italian Chambers of Commerce in the NAFTA Area for a conference on the theme "Next Stop, Houston: business opportunities from high tech to consumer goods—the key sectors." This event will be held at the Petroleum club. Please e-mail info2@iacctexas.com for more information.

Scholarship Luncheon

June 13—The Asian Chamber of Commerce will host a June scholarship awards luncheon, featuring Dr. Mary S. Spangler, Chancellor of Houston Community College, at the Westin Galleria Hotel. Please contact elsie-huang@asianchamber-hou.org for more information.

Perspectives on Global Energy

June 13—Spend a day learning from four guest speakers at the World Affairs Council's forum, "Perspectives on Global Energy: Energy, Geopolitics, Sustainability and China." Halliburton's Vice President and scholars from three universities will discuss a multitude of case studies. Please visit www.hwac.net/edu.

Partnership Networking Function

June 19—Join the GHP for a general networking function, an opportunity to meet with some of the region's hottest businesses. Participants will network in one of Houston's architectural treasures, the Federal Reserve Bank. Please contact pthomas@houston.org.

Houston Hispanic Chamber Trade Fair

June 21—This breakfast and mini-trade fair offer individuals and small businesses an opportunity to showcase their products. Keynote speakers from the Hispanic community will provide insight about business issues in their respective field of expertise. Please visit houston-hispanicchamber.com

Luncheon with the Lieutenant Governor

June 26—Join Lieutenant Gov. David Dewhurst as he reviews the 80th Texas Legislative Session and the activities that impacted the region and business community. Sponsored by the GHP, the luncheon will be held at the JW Marriott. Please contact jreese@houston.org.

Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council (MIADC)

Each month we bring you the latest updates on the developments of the seven MIADC regions: Africa, Americas, Asia-Australia, Canada, Europe, Middle East/ North Africa & South Asia

Executive Board

On May 10, the MIADC Executive Board met for its first meeting of 2007. The Board has been expanded to consist of both immediate past Chairs and the new Chairs of all 7 regions. They were joined by City Council Member Adrian Garcia, who expressed his appreciation on behalf of the City of Houston for the Board's hard work.

Mr. Glen Gondo, 2007 Chair of the MIADC/Asia/Australia, was elected Chair of the Executive Board, and Dr. Lennard Tenende, 2006 Chair of MIADC/Africa, was elected as Vice Chair.

Middle East/NorthAfrica

On May 23, the MIADC/Middle East/North Africa met with City Council Member Peter Brown to discuss ways to support the Houston Middle East and North African communities.

Members set a schedule for holding quarterly meetings as follows:

- 1) August 22, 2007
- 2) November 14, 2007
- 3) February 13, 2008
- 4) April 23, 2008

Canada

On May 24, the MIADC/Canada met at the house of Ms. Nadine Eidman, Chair of the Canada region, to welcome new members to the Council.

Altogether, MIADC/Canada has added the following 8 new members:

- 1) Mr. Bradley Lee
- 2) Ms. Carol Senciall
- 3) Mr. Jeff Cardinal
- 4) Ms. Joanne Houck
- 5) Ms. June Hanke
- 6) Ms. Laura Bacon
- 7) Mr. Robert C. Howard
- 8) Mr. Tosin Famurewa

The Global Bridge: The Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce (VACC)

Each month, the International Newsletter features "the Global Bridge" section, which introduces local business organizations dedicated to promoting Houston's international image.



Danny Nguyen

Though relatively new to Houston, the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce (VACC) has set up ambitious goals for itself in order to meet its mission statement.

The VACC was established to promote economic vitality and quality of life in the local Vietnamese community, offer a voice to the Vietnamese business community, provide support to small businesses, foster economic growth and serve as a liaison between Chamber members and Houston stakeholders.

Whether it is naming a Houston

street in Vietnamese, organizing business seminars and workshops, or lobbying for an additional police station in Southwest Houston, the VACC has launched several programs in order to help it meet its goals. Halfway through 2007, many of these programs have already been successfully implemented, such as the monthly networking luncheons. The luncheons draw large crowds from the local community and provide an opportunity for members to meet and exchange ideas.

According to the Chamber's President, Danny Nguyen, the VACC's goal is very simple: "We want to build stronger communities through building stronger businesses. I strongly

believe that it is only when people come together, relationships are fostered, ideas are exchanged, understanding and appreciation of each other take place—then and only then, significant things will happen whether it's a business transaction or a community project."

The Houston VACC seeks to support business opportunities and programs of interest among Houston's Vietnamese business entrepreneurs. The Chamber plans to organize its future fundraising activities through a mix of annual and year-round events, such as the Annual Gala or the Project Leader VANG Sponsorship.

— Adina Popescu

The French Republic

This month we visit France, the first country to recognize the independent Republic of Texas. The Honorable Patrick Olivier Berron, Consul General of France in Houston, updates us on the tremendous French presence here since those early days.



Consul General Patrick Berron

A graduate in political science from the University of Strasbourg, Consul General Berron joined the French Ministry of Finance and Economy in 1967. He has served in a multitude of trade and economic posts all over the world. Prior to moving to Houston he worked in Jakarta, Indonesia where his family helped with rescue efforts during the 2004 tsunami that devastated coastal communities in that country. Consul General Berron arrived in Houston immediately after Hurricane Katrina and indicated that he was “impressed with the City’s response to victims.”

According to Consul General Berron, “I have two major missions in my role here. First, I want to promote French investments and businesses in the Houston area, and second, I want to promote France as an investment-based decision for Houston companies. All energy-related French businesses know that one must have a permanent presence in Houston to succeed. Few people were aware that Houston has such a large seaport, and I am happy to report that the largest French shipping line is the first customer signed up on the new Bayport container line to conduct a link between China and Houston.”

In past positions, Consul General Berron has handled primarily economic issues, and now, as Consul General, he is involved in both cultural, academic and medical issues. “One major example of the strong French-Houston cultural link,” states Consul General Berron, “is the Menil Museum and its 20th anniversary celebration this year. Additionally, France and Houston support educational

exchanges, and the respected Awty International School even presents a French academic program. M.D. Anderson and the American Hospital in Paris are also conducting joint cooperation projects. A large French medical delegation will be visiting the cancer center next week.”

An opera buff, Consul General Berron and his wife, Ellen, have attended all of the Houston Grand Opera’s productions here since their arrival. Avid travelers and golfers, they visit their children in California and their second home in Florida whenever possible.

—Mary Jane Wakefield



France

Did You Know?

France is the most visited country in the world, receiving over 75 million foreign tourists (including business visitors) annually.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

Connections Across the Globe:

This month we track developments taking place within the Houston Airport System, the Port of Houston Authority and Sister Cities of Houston

Houston Airport System (HAS)

George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) is gearing up for increased trans-Atlantic service to Europe. With the recent approval of the Open Skies agreement between the United States and the European Union, IAH is poised to expand the number of destinations it serves on the continent.

The agreement allows expanded services for U.S. airlines to European destinations and the expansion of European airlines into the U.S. market. One of the

plums of this agreement is the access now granted to U.S. carriers into London's Heathrow Airport. Previously, the lack of an Open Skies agreement had prevented U.S.-based carriers from entering certain destinations. Houston-based Continental Airlines was among the first to announce plans to secure new routes to Europe.

The potential increase in service will provide significant opportunities for the City of Houston and for George Bush

Intercontinental Airport, which already offers service to more than 70 international destinations.

IAH, the fourth fastest-growing airport in the world, has seen steady growth among international carriers offering new and expanded service from and to Houston. This includes the new passenger service by Emirates Air and China Airlines along with a new cargo service by Korean Air.

— By Juan M. Alanis, HAS

Port of Houston Authority (PHA)

Recently, the Port of Houston Authority and the Port of Galveston signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly explore opportunities for the development of Pelican Island as a future container-handling facility.

The MOU calls for both ports to identify a joint action-planning team to create a Master Development Plan for a

container-handling facility on the island. The joint agreement stipulates that finance and development of the facility would not begin until after 2015, when the Port Authority's Bayport Container Terminal is expected to be fully built out.

Expectations are for container cargo growth to continue at double digits. The two ports anticipate that projected market demand will

necessitate the development of such a facility in the next 10 to 15 years.

"With the expansion of the Panama Canal, the West Gulf region is in the prime position to take advantage of the future growth in the maritime industry," stated Benny Holland, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Port of Galveston.

—Edwin Henry, PHA

Sister Cities of Houston (SCH)

International travelers arriving to Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport can now appreciate a new art installation in Terminal E. Capturing Houston's international status, the beautiful mirrored map of the world highlights each of Houston's sister cities.

The installation is similar to the map located outside the Council Chambers at City Hall. The Houston Airport System

sponsored the coordination and installation of the map, which is located in the lower level of Terminal E, near the Customs exit doors.

Sister Cities represent official relationships that link cities with mutual interests from around the world. They are established through formal commitments made by the municipal government of each city. Citizen volunteers coordinate a variety of exchanges

and programs that promote friendship, understanding, trade and cooperation. For more information on the Sister Cities program, please contact the Houston International Protocol Alliance at (713) 227-3395.

—By Ellen I. Goldberg & Alma Maldonado

Promoting Houston Globally:

This month we track developments taking place in the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau (GHCVB)

Houston faces several challenges in its quest to capitalize on the growing Chinese outbound traveler market. The Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau (GHCVB) is setting its sights on a potential segment of this market: the Chinese student market. This lucrative market already has a significant presence on the East and West Coasts, especially, in areas such as summer camps and English as a Second Language (ESL), which are combined with city tours and other attractions.

Representatives from the GHCVB, in partnership with the Texas Tourism Governor's Office and the Houston Airport System, attended the 3rd International Forum on Chinese Outbound Tourism and the China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market trade shows, which took place in Beijing in May 2007. GHCVB also hosted a luncheon for top Chinese tour

operators and held 40 meetings with other key industry officials.

Also, in partnership with Continental Airlines, GHCVB representatives met with China Youth Travel Services, one of China's three largest tour operators, China Overseas Travel Co., and Beijing New Oriental School. These companies, which represent more than 80 million student members, have expressed interest in the Texas travel market. GHCVB suggested a family tour package to Houston, which will enable operators to meet with representatives from Houston universities, receptive operators and other key attractions such as NASA, George Ranch Historical Park, the Houston Astros and Rockets teams, the Galleria and cruise lines operating from Galveston Island and the Port of Houston. The excitement generated by this proposal indicates that the prospects for the future of this market are truly bright.

— By Daniel Palomo, GHCVB

Opportunities & Resources

Awards

- Leadership Texas: 2007 Cathy Bonner Leadership Award
Contact: chris@marnoble.com
- Indo American Chamber of Commerce: 8th Annual Gala and Awards Banquet (Outstanding Entrepreneur, Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, Outstanding Community Service, Outstanding Young Entrepreneur)
Contact: iaccgh01@aol.com

Employment

- GMS Planners, Interpreter/Host (Chinese-speaking)
Contact: lacey.lecompte@gmsplanners.com

www.houstontx.gov/moiad

**International Newsletter
is published monthly by the**

**Mayor's Office of
International Affairs
&
Development
City of Houston**

**Bill White
Mayor**

**Helen T. Chang
Director, MOIAD**

**Matthew Shailer
Editor**

**Mary Jane Wakefield
Assistant Editor**

**Laura Hou
Production Coordinator**

**Please send articles/
comments to
helen.chang@cityofhouston.net
Fax: (713) 437-6358**

**901 Bagby
City Hall, 4th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 247-3397**

**Next Submission Deadline:
June 20, 2007**

June 2007: International People Skills Month

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
6/1	7:15 AM	Houston Technology Center: HTC Technology Champions Meeting	Houston Technology Center	htcevents@houstontech.org
	8:00 AM	Brazil Texas Chamber of Commerce: \$10 Billion in 5 years: Brazil's Pipeline Program	Westchase Marriot	www.braziltexas.org
	7:00 PM	French American Chamber of Commerce: Tour de Champagne	Hotel Derek	www.facchouston.com
	7:30 PM	Opera in the Heights: Encore Concert of L'Elisir d'amore, Donizetti	Houston Club	www.operaintheheights.org
6/3	2:00 PM	Asia Society/MFAH Asian Art Lecture: Picturing Women in Edo-Period Japan	MFAH	www.mfah.org
6/4	6:30 PM	Japan America Society of Houston: Japanese Language Classes	TBD	www.jashouston.org
	7:00 PM	Japanese Association of Greater Houston: Famous Japanese Opera Singer Asako Tamura	Hobby Center	www.jashouston.org
6/5	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Opportunity Urbanism, Featuring Joel Kotkin	Doubletree Hotel Downtown	ssmith@houston.org
	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Biofuels Roundtable with Uruguay's Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining	Greater Houston Partnership	www.houston.org
6/6	6:00 PM	Asian Chamber of Commerce: China Trade & Education Mission	5177 Richmond	elsiehuang@asianchamber-hou.org
	6:30 PM	Rice Alliance Life Science Technology Venture Forum	Rice University, McNair Hall	(713) 348-3443
6/7	7:30 AM	Houston Networking News: Lead Exchange Breakfast	Amazon Grill Restaurant	(281) 778-6661
	9:15 AM	Italy-America Chamber of Commerce: Conference of the Chambers of Commerce in the NAFTA Area	Petroleum Club	info2@iacctexas.com
	11:30 AM	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Annual Golf Tournament	Wild Cat Golf Club	www.houstonhispanicchamber.com
	11:30 AM	World Economic Forum: Summer Davos Luncheon	Coronado Club	Logan.stanton@weforum.org
6/8	8:00 AM	U.S. Department of Commerce: REACH SYMPOSIUM 2007: Chemical Imports into the European Union	Federal Reserve Building	(281) 449-9402
	11:30 AM	Brazil Texas Chamber of Commerce: Common Horizons for U.S. and Brazil Interests	Westchase Marriot	www.braziltexas.org
6/9	6:30 PM	Vatsalya Gram: Event honoring Sadhvi Ritambhara	Radhakrishna Temple	www.vatsalyagram.com
6/11	11:30 AM	Houston World Affairs Council: Confronting Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas: Israel's Search for Peace	Westin Galleria	www.hwac.net
6/12	5:30 PM	Women in Networking: Bring a Friend Networking Event	Arturo's Uptown Italiano Restaurant	(281) 778-6661
6/13	11:30 AM	Asian Chamber of Commerce: June Scholarship Awards Luncheon	Westin Galleria	elsiehuang@asianchamber-hou.org

6/13	6:00 PM	Houston World Affairs Council: Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders & How They Changed America	Westin Oaks	www.hwac.net
6/14	10:00 AM	Japan America Society of Houston: Ikebono Ikebana Classes	Tachibana Center	www.jashouston.org
	7:30 AM	British American Business Council: Alternative Investment Seminar	The Houstonian	www.babchouston.org
	—	National Federation of Filipino American Associations: Visit of Consul General of the Phillipines in Los Angeles (through June 17)	—	(281) 414-9990
6/15	4:00 PM	Houston Museum of Natural Science: Nomads of Kazakhstan (through September 9)	Houston Museum of Natural Sciences	www.hmns.org
6/16	4:00 PM	African American Chamber of Commerce: Juneteenth Festival & Business Expo	Highland Heights Elementary	www.aaccgh.org
6/20	—	Tri County Black Chamber of Commerce: International Trade Mission to Belize (through June 24)	—	www.tricountyblackchamber.org
6/21	7:30 AM	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Networking Breakfast & Mini Trade Fair	Westin Galleria Hotel	www.houstonhispanicchamber.com
	7:30 AM	Asian American Chamber of Commerce: Breakfast Mixer	Hilton Garden Inn	www.asianchamber-hou.org
6/25	6:00 PM	Houston World Affairs Council: Eyes on the Future: How Youth in the Middle East View the World	The Junior League The Ballroom	www.hwac.net
6/26	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: 80th Legislative Wrap-up, Featuring Lt. Governor David Dewhurst	J.W. Marriott	jreese@houston.org
6/28	7:00 PM	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Olive Oil Tasting & Lecture	1101 Milford Street	www.houstonitaliancenter.com

We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.